

REMARKS

Claim Status:

Claims 15 to 24 are pending. Claims 1 to 14 and 18 were previously cancelled.

Previously withdrawn claims 25 to 42 are hereby cancelled as well.

Section 112 Rejections to Claims 19, 22 and 23:

The Examiner rejected claims 19 and 22, stating that the bands do not have “overlapping engagement”. Claim 19 has been cancelled and claim 22 has been amended to remove any reference to the bands being in an “overlapping engagement”.

Claim 23 has been amended to correct the spelling mistake as requested by the Examiner.

Anticipation and Obviousness Rejections In View Of Moore:

The Examiner rejected the pending claims as being either anticipated by, or obvious in view of, newly cited Moore.

The Presently Claimed Invention:

Independent claim 15 has now been amended to set forth:

“..... the bands extending..... to pass between one another *and fasten onto the flat central region of the garment,.....*” [emphasis added]

This claimed feature can be seen in Applicants’ Fig. 1. For example, band 20 is to be received between bands 21 and 23 and then fastened back onto central region 10 of the garment. Similarly, band 23 is to be received between bands 20 and 22 and then fastened back onto central region 10 of the garment, etc.

The Moore System:

In the Moore system, each of the securing straps 28 are attached back onto themselves.

This is seen most clearly in Moore's Fig. 1 where each of the six straps pass through a clasp ring, and then are Velcro fastened back onto themselves. As can be seen in Moore's Fig. 1, there are two wide straps above the knee, one thin strap at the knee, and three wide straps below the knee. Each of these six straps are looped back and fastened onto themselves.

The Presently Claimed Invention Distinguished:

The presently claimed invention describes a system where the bands (20, 21, 22, etc.) are each fastened back onto the flat central region (10) of the garment. This is achieved by having the straps pass between one another such that their ends can be fastened onto the flat central region of the garment. (IE: straps extending from opposite sides of the garment are "juxtaposed" with respect to one another).

This design has numerous advantages over Moore's system of six separate straps in which each strap is instead simply fastened back onto *itself*.

For example, the present invention provides even compression along the entire length of the device. This ensures appropriate sustained compression levels along the entire length of the patient's limb. In contrast, Moore only provides compression at six separate (and spaced apart) strap locations along the limb. Thus, it is not possible to provide a uniform compression along the full length of the limb using the Moore device. This is not surprising since the Moore device is a simple mechanism for bracing the knee. In contrast, the present invention is a device for applying therapeutic compression along the full length of the limb, for example, as a treatment for lymphedema.

Another advantage of having the Applicants' bands (20, 21, 22, etc.) juxtaposed, as claimed, is that the patient can grab onto one band extending from each of the opposing sides and pull them at the same time, easily tightening the device progressively along the limb. Simultaneously pulling on straps that extend from opposite sides of the device prevents the device from rotating around the limb. In contrast, Moore's bands are not juxtaposed to pass between one another, as claimed. Instead, the thin strap at the knee and the straps directly above

and below the knee strap *all extend from the same side* of the device. This is seen in Moore's Fig. 7 where four straps extend to the right (of the page) and two straps extend to the left (of the page).

In view of the forgoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants respectfully request that the present obviousness rejections be withdrawn.

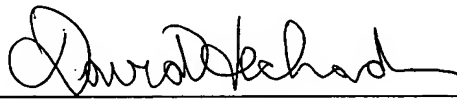
Conclusion:

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1990 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
David R. Heckadon
Registration No. 50,184

GORDON & REES, LLP
101 West Broadway, Suite 1600
San Diego, California 92101-8217
Phone: (415) 875-3266 (direct)
Phone: (415) 986-5900 (main)
Facsimile: (415) 986-8054
Attorney Docket No. CAID-1019480